

**SUMMARY MINUTES
WATER POLICY TASK FORCE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**June 9, 2005
10:00 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.
SCAG Offices: Riverside B Meeting Room**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consideration of the minutes of the April 14, 2005 meeting was continued to the next meeting of the Task Force.

4.0 PRESENTATION ITEMS FOR THE TASK FORCE

4.1 Water Supplies and the Growth Outlook in the San Timoteo Watershed

This review of future growth and water supply planning in the San Geronio Pass Basin was a continuation of an unfinished part of April's meeting of the Task Force. Chuck Butcher (General Manager, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District), Andy Schlange (General Manager, San Timoteo Watershed Management Authority) and Mark Wildermuth (Environmental Consultant) reviewed current conditions and plans related to water resources management in the rapidly growing San Timoteo Watershed. The panelists noted that the groundwater aquifer has been in a state of overdraft and required a management system for recharge and control of pumping. Mr. Wildermuth described the efforts underway to work with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to replenish the aquifer with reclaimed water and not trigger anti-degradation objections.

4.2 Proposed Stormwater Management Legislation: ACA 13

Task Force member Larry Forester and Leslie Mintz, Legislative Director for Heal the Bay, presented the features of ACA 13, a proposed constitutional amendment that would put before California voters a provision to make stormwater and flood control fees exempt from the voter requirements of Proposition 218. Proposition 218 requires voter approval of all local fees except for fees related to sewer, water and refuse collection services. The legislation is supported by the Governor, the League of California Cities and the County Supervisors Association of California. Republican opposition in the Legislature appears to be the obstacle to early passage.

The Task Force unanimously recommended that the Energy and Environment Committee and the Regional Council support passage of ACA 13.

4.3 Public Review Draft of the 2005 California Water Plan

Mark Stuart, representing the State Department of Water Resources, provided an overview of the newly released draft of the 2005 California Water Plan. He noted that the new draft Plan proposes a roadmap for meeting the state's 2030 water demands with the use of integrated regional water management and the improvement and maintenance of current state water systems. This roadmap emphasizes three priorities: water use efficiency, water quality protection and environmental stewardship.

After questions and discussion the Task Force recommended unanimously that the Energy and Environment Committee and the Regional Council endorse the Draft 2005 California Water Plan.

4.4 Atmospheric Deposition and Water Quality Challenges

Dan Lafferty, Assistant Division Engineer in the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and Task Force member, reported on the findings of a recent study on atmospheric deposition that indicates that aerial deposition of metals is a substantial pollution contributor to stormwater runoff. He noted that there needed to be a more comprehensive regulatory regime for these issues, one in which the burden for metal pollution was not borne exclusively by local stormwater agencies. He thanked SCAG staff for facilitating a recent and first time discussion between air and water quality regulators about the linkage between aerial and water pollution. Each group has expressed interest in continuing these unprecedented discussions.

4.5 Water Supply Planning and Growth in the Santa Clarita Valley

The Santa Clarita Valley area has seen on-going controversy over the issue of water supplies and the adequacy of these supplies for substantial housing and other developments proposed in the Valley. The Task Force was briefed by Lisa Hardy (Planning Manager, City of Santa Clarita), Andy Malakates (Regional Planner, County of Los Angeles), and Mary Lou Cotton and Glenn Reiter (Castaic Water Agency). Extensive work is being done related to the preparation of the 2005 Urban Water Management Plans that are required of water purveyors in the Valley. These Plans will identify the projected growth in the Valley's communities over the next 20 years and provide estimates of water needed to supply not only this growth but also the water demand of current consumers. Castaic Water Agency, a State Water Project Contractor, is the Valley's supplemental water supplier and is working to develop a full portfolio of water resources (imports, conservation, storage, reclamation and recycling) and tools that will serve the Valley, as well as encourage better coordination between water agencies and local agencies. That Agency is working closely with communities and water districts to see that water resources are well-managed and that water supplies are both reliable and sufficient.

4.6 A SCAG Report on “Stormwater Runoff Management and Synergistic Water Quality Planning”

Late in the meeting staff briefly noted that a report had been recently submitted to Caltrans that highlighted the linkage between major transportation projects and sound water quality and risk management in host watersheds. The report can be found on the Task Force’s webpage.

4.7 A Preview of a Study on Ecosystem Restoration in the Upper Malibu Creek Watershed

Dan Sulzer of the Army Corps of Engineers (Dan is also a Task Force member) gave a preview of a study now underway in the Upper Malibu Creek Watershed. This feasibility study will be discussed in greater detail at a future meeting of the Task Force, once conceptual planning alternatives are more fully developed. This ecosystem restoration effort would involve modifications to or removal of Rindge Dam in that watershed.

5.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

The Chair suggested that some attention be given to a review of whether Section 208 planning under the Clean Water Act still has some role to play in a more comprehensive approach to water quality in the region’s urban watersheds, perhaps in the next 5 years.

6.0 STAFF REPORT

There was no Staff report.

7.0 TASK FORCE INFORMATION SHARING

Bill Wright mentioned the participation of Metropolitan Water District in a technical study of tunneling through the mountains between Riverside County and Orange County for transportation, water and other utility purposes. He suggested that we get a report of this work included in a future agenda.

8.0 COMMENT PERIOD

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. with mention that the next Task Force meeting will be September 8, 2005.

June 9, 2005 Attendance Summary:

Elected Members: Dennis Washburn (Chair), Margaret Clark, Norman Eckenrode, Larry Forester, Mike Miller, Shenna Moqet, Tom Sykes, Toni Young, Frank Zerunyan.

Liaison Members: Bo Cutter, Suzanne Dallman, Tom Erb, Gerald Greene, Steven John, Dan Lafferty, Dennis LaMoreaux, Larry McKenney, Heather Merenda, Joe Mundine, Dan Sulzer, Paul Thakur, Bill

Wright, Kevin Wattier.

Minutes prepared and approved by Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner and Staff to the Task Force.